

## WET AND DRY IN BITTER FIGHT

Both Sides Seek Aid of the Governor.

### COX SAID TO BE NEUTRAL

Mechanics Lien Measure Agreed Upon By All Contending Forces to Be Introduced by Representative W. J. Duffy.

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One of the hardest tasks facing Gov. Cox just now is the task of keeping aloof from the bitterly contested liquor fight going on in the general assembly. The opposing forces fighting for every inch of ground, both are anxious to secure the aid of the administrative head of the state, and at every stage of the battle the governor is appealed to for assistance. Although the real warfare is yet to come, Gov. Cox already has been supplicated many times. When the rumor is spread that the chief executive has been asked for aid by one side, the other side rushes in to appeal to him not to grant the opponent's request, whatever it may be. Both forces have been desperately contending over the naming of a sub-committee, whose duty it will be to draft a liquor license law. The sub-committee is supposed to be named by the chairman of the house and senate temperance committees. As usual, the governor has been appealed to, but he is declared to have taken neutral ground.

#### New Civil Service Bill.

The charge that the proposed civil service bill now before the general assembly will loosen rather than confirm the present civil service structure in the cities of Ohio, will be made when the civil service committee and the house and the judiciary committee of the senate meet together for the first time to consider the bill. It is arranged to have a public hearing before the two committees. The most serious phase of the promised charge against the bill is that it will permit both the police and fire department to be disrupted by political preferences. The provision of the proposed law giving the mayor of cities the right to appoint the civil service commissions in cities is declared by opponents of the measure to strike a death blow at the spirit of non-partisanship of the present law. The new civil service bill was introduced by Senator Cleveland of Cleveland. It is declared to be essentially a Cleveland fostered plan. It is also desired by the Columbus city administration, which has been trying ineffectually to get rid of the chief of police. It would place every city department solely within the power of the mayor, it will be charged, not only by permitting him to name the commissions, but also by preventing any adequate appeal from suspension or dismissal. Lively charges from both sides are expected to characterize the hearing.

#### Mechanics Lien Measure.

According to statement given out here by Stephen Stilwell of the Cleveland Federation of Labor, all contending forces have finally agreed upon a mechanics lien bill and the measure will be introduced in the general assembly soon by Representative Warren J. Duffy of Toledo. Its provisions are briefly these: When any laborer or mechanic employed by a contractor upon any building becomes suspicious through belated wage payments of the honesty or integrity of the contractor, he is expected immediately to give written notice to the owner of the building. The owner of the building must thereupon immediately demand from the contractor a receipt for the back wages. If the contractor fails to produce such receipts, the owner of the building must then himself pay the wage claims. However, the owner is carefully safeguarded in two ways. The laborer or mechanic cannot collect from the owner for wages for more than 30 days previous to the filing of the protest, and more important still, no wage or other claims may exceed the amount of the original contract. Thus there is no possible change for the home owner to lose. The only additional difficulty he will face will be a need for greater precautions in selecting his contractor, and in seeing to it that just claims are paid. The provision that no claims of any sort can exceed the amount of the contract protects him absolutely, it is contended. By the terms of the bill, labor claims take priority over all others. After them come claims from material men. Ma-

#### To Have Outside Blackboard.

Carrying out the spirit of the anti-lobby act, one feature of which provides for invitations to appear before committees, Sergeant-at-Arms Mechling of the house is preparing a huge blackboard, which will be erected in the hall outside the main entrance to the house. Upon it will be posted notices of all meetings of committees for the information of the general public.

The new bulletin board will be large enough to carry the names of all the house committees.

terial men are presumed by the bill to file the same notices of lack of payment with the owner of a building when a contractor is remiss. The owner must make the same demand of the contractor for receipts. If they are not forthcoming, then the owner must settle the claim. But labor claims must come first, and finally the same safeguard, the provision that the owner may be liable for more than the amount of the contract, prevails always.

#### Resurrects Old Question.

The slogan raised in the legislature by Senator William A. Weygant of Portage county regarding the canals, has resurrected the same question that has for two generations troubled every session of every general assembly. Senator Weygant's slogan is—"Sell the canals and with the proceeds build better roads." The Portage county senator figures that the state ought to get at least \$20,000,000 for its canals. Distributed among 88 counties this would mean \$228,000 for each. Senator Weygant is asking suggestions from interested citizens of the state as to his plan. He would not have the state sell unless it could realize an equitable sum. He holds the canals as now constructed useless, and he further holds that larger waterways, involving federal aid, to be out of the question. So he would advertise for bids. He would sell piecemeal if that plan should promise a better bargain. In cases wherein cities, such as Akron, use the water of the canals for manufacturing purposes, Senator Weygant would give the city or its manufacturing industries the right to appropriate enough to leave the present water rights unimpaired. Such in brief is the Weygant plan. Thus far it has not become before any branch of the assembly for serious consideration.

#### Takes Up Traveling Men's Fight.

Although personally they may be unimpaired of their fate, the acanthia lectularia soon may have to step into the class with fraternities and saloons, and other alleged evils, and be "regulated" by the general assembly. The traveling men of Ohio have donned their war paint and they are hot on the trail of the gay little lectularia. They have asked Senator J. B. Dollison of Hocking county to prepare the proper measure for a finish fight. He is now at work and the first gun will be fired when he presents the measure to the senate this week. People so untutored in worldly ways as to be ignorant of the identity of that flip-pant little animal, called cimet lectularius, when he is alone, and acanthia lectularia when he is in numbers, are asked to look in their encyclopedia under "general nuisances" or "unmitigated evils." An easier way would be to ask the first traveling man they meet. Traveling men have to sleep in all sorts of hotels and all manner of beds and they know.

The bill which Senator Dollison is preparing is aimed particularly at conditions in hotels in small towns and country sections. He would have some state authority given supervision over the sanitary status of such hostels and he would include restaurants and eating places in the supervised list. He holds that the sanitary condition of hotels and restaurants in large places is now controlled by city boards of health, while in the smaller sections sanitary regulation of eating and sleeping places is nil. He would have state inspectors do for the smaller places what the city inspectors do for the cities now.

So it is that the lectularia would come under state regulation. The traveling men, in approaching Senator Dollison, complained of many things, unsanitary kitchens, unclean food, unkempt food servers, restaurant "come-backs," or the food prepared for the new guest from the leftovers of his predecessors, and the like, but the most bitter complaint was lodged against lectularia-infested beds.

#### Anti-Spear Fishing Laws.

On the ground that greedy and unscrupulous fishermen make mockery of the anti-spear fishing laws, Senator Haas proposes a real "stinger" in the way of legislation. He introduced a bill in the senate making it absolutely unlawful to spear fish in Ohio. The present law permits the owners of land abutting upon streams and reservoirs to spear, and also gives them the right to permit others to do so on their premises. Senator Haas holds that this law is being made sport of. He says that all over Ohio now tons of fish are being speared through holes in the ice. Carloads of speared fish are being shipped daily into Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and other large towns, he declares, and so he would stop the privilege of spear fishing altogether and cut off the lucrative business that many people seemed to have established through the alleged looseness of the law.

In the house Representative Cowan of Putnam county introduced a bill providing for the sterilization of habitual criminals, feeble-minded persons, the hopelessly insane and other defectives. The aim of the measure is to prevent the propagation of the defective. It is a state administrative measure.

#### Many Inquiries Received.

Inquiries concerning the tax laws of Ohio are flooding the tax commission, and pamphlets containing the laws, together with letters explaining methods pursued in their enforcement, are being sent daily from the office of the commission to all parts of the country. In several states the legislatures are at work on tax reform. The wave of progressiveness swept in to power scores of men new to public life, who are seeking the best of everything for their respective commonwealths.

## TWO KILLED IN THEATER PANIC

Many Others Are Seriously and Painfully Injured.

### TWO DEAD ARE WOMEN

Between 750 and 1,000 Spectators Push, Haul and Fight One Another When Film Catches Fire in Moving Picture House.

New York City.—Two women were crushed to death, 18 men, women and children were injured so badly as to necessitate their instant removal to the operating room of Bellevue hospital and almost a hundred others were seriously and painfully hurt in a panic in the moving picture theater at 143 E. Houston-st. known as the Houston Hippodrome.

#### Film Catches on Fire.

Between 750 and 1,000 spectators, it is estimated by several survivors, were crowded into the Hippodrome, which for 40 years was used by the First German Methodist Episcopal church, watching a film called "Dr. Gar-el-Hama, or the Daredevil Criminal," when a spark from the small electric motor which operated the film set the film on fire. Instantly there was a slight hiss and then a sizzling sound as the flames quickly ate their way through the inflammable substance of which the film is made. A flash of the fire got through the vents in the front of the projector booth before the operator could throw the traps across the vents.

The subject of the picture was of itself enough to carry the spectators to a high state of excitement. A railroad train crowded with Parisian police was bearing down on a handcar on which "Dr. Gar-el-Hama" was escaping and was about to crash into it when the overstrained nerves of the watchers were still further burdened by a cry of "fire!" from a man in the rear of the theater. The cry was taken up by others, who immediately started for the exit.

#### Tries to Quiet Crowd.

Arther Davis, a lecturer, who was on the platform explaining the intricacies of the plot unfolded by the picture drama, called to the spectators: "There is no danger; keep your seats!"

At the same instant an old man shouted in Yiddish: "We shall all be burned. Out for your lives!" The spectators quickly lost all sense of order and in another moment the entire audience was rushing for the street, shoving, pushing, hauling, fighting one another madly for a chance to get through the narrow swinging doors.

The spectators in the balcony joined their frightened numbers to those on the main floor, fairly throwing themselves down the winding stairways into the same foyer that does exit duty for both floors.

While this panic raged within the building, 200 persons who were outside the theater waiting for a chance to get in became alarmed for the safety of friends and relatives inside and started up the steps leading to the foyer and the second flight leading into auditorium.

#### Women Crushed to Death.

The ingoing rush met the outgoing mob at the doors at the head of the inside stairway. The dense throngs grappled in a frenzied mass for an instant and then the ingoing crowd, being less numerous and lighter in weight, had to give way before the onswearing rush of the terrified spectators.

Two women jumped three feet in the air and threw themselves bodily into the crowd on the iron stairway. The maneuver so startled the onrushing mob that it split and let the two women tumble headlong to the sidewalk below. Then the whole mob piled up on bodies of the two women, who had only an instant in which to put their arms in front of their faces in a vain effort to protect their heads from the heels of their fellows.

A fire alarm brought a crew of firemen to the scene while the crowd was still struggling. The firemen forced their way into the building over the heads of the struggling mass and began pulling and hauling women, men and children out of the jam and directing them to the rear exit which none had thought of using although it was plainly marked. When the jam had been cleared the ambulance surgeons were called into service to attend the injured, while the police formed fire lines and kept thousands of walling spectators in the streets at a safe distance. The two women who had hurled themselves into the mob at the head of the stairway when the panic left their minds no alternative, were found afterwards on the sidewalk where they had fallen. Both were dead, crushed by hundreds of heels.

#### Postoffice Chief's Report.

Washington, D. C.—Postmaster General Hitchcock's annual report, just made public, tentatively recommends reduction of some parcel post rates and increasing the limit of weight beyond 11 pounds; recommends civil pensions for postal employees; an increase in rates on second-class mail which may pave the way for 1-cent letter postage; and the consolidation of the third and fourth classes, so books and papers may be forwarded by parcel post. He points out that expenses have been cut down.

### MRS. WILLIAM KENT



Mrs. William Kent, wife of the Progressive congressman from California, is one of the leaders in the suffragist campaign that is being conducted in Washington.

## INCOME TAX WINS OUT

AMENDMENT IS APPROVED BY THIRTY-EIGHT STATES.

Estimated Tax of One Per Cent on Incomes Exceeding \$5,000 Will Return Revenue of \$100,000,000.

#### HOW NEW ARTICLE IN CONSTITUTION WILL READ.

Here is the full and exact wording of the income tax amendment as it will read when formally declared a part of the United States constitution:

Article XVI.—The congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the states and without regard to any census or enumeration.

Washington, D. C.—A general income tax will be levied by congress during the special session to be called by President-elect Wilson for revision of the tariff.

Senator Norris Brown of Nebraska, father of the resolution for constitutional amendment legalizing an income tax, notified the senate that more than the sufficient number of states had ratified the amendment and that the principle was now a part of the organic law of the country. The latest states were Nebraska, Wyoming and Delaware. Representative Cordell Hull of Tennessee, the ways and means committee's authority on the income tax, estimates that a one per cent tax levied on incomes exceeding \$5,000 a year will return a revenue of nearly \$100,000,000 a year.

Mr. Hull pointed out that with the levying of the income tax there must come a repeal of the corporation income tax or there would be double taxation. The government gets about \$28,000,000 from the corporation tax. Free sugar is proposed and the abandonment of this tax will cut the revenue another \$53,000,000.

The income tax will run with the tariff duties, but it will be used as an equalizer for treasury receipts.

The 38 states that ratified the amendment are Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

## INDICTS FIRE INSURANCE MEN

Grand Jury Charges Fourteen Prominent Buckeyes With Violating Valentine Anti-Trust Law.

Cleveland, O.—The grand jury returned indictments against 14 members of the governing committee of the Cleveland Fire Insurance Exchange for alleged violations of the Valentine anti-trust law. The list of indicted men includes some of the most prominent insurance agents in Ohio. The extreme penalty for each defendant, if convicted under the joint indictment, would be 75 years in the workhouse and a fine of \$3,625,000.

The defendants had anticipated the grand jury's action by employing the legal firm of White, Johnson & Cannon and Attorney John J. Sullivan to represent them. They were all waiting in the offices of White, Johnson & Cannon when the indictments were returned. Sullivan appeared in Judge Gott's court as soon as the indictments were read and agreed that the bail of each defendant should be fixed at \$1,000. The defendants later appeared before Judge Gott, pleaded not guilty, and gave bail.

#### Foe of White Slavery Talks.

Denver, Col.—Eighty per cent of the school children in the larger cities of the United States are immoral," was one of the declarations made before a meeting of women by Mrs. Eugenia St. John, a leader in the work of the National Anti-White Slavery association. Mrs. St. John declared that one out of every 17 girls who go wrong is a high school girl and said that high school principals and teachers, being powerless to deal with the conditions, concealed them from the public.

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